

S. Res. 335

MR. HELMS (for himself and MR. LOTT, MR. BIDEN, MR. CHAFEE, MR. DODD, MR. LUGAR, MR. COVERDELL, MR. DOMENICI, MR. LEAHY, MR. GRASSLEY, MR. BINGAMAN, MR. GRAMM, MR. MCCAIN, MR. SMITH OF N.H., MR. CRAIG, MRS. FEINSTEIN, MRS. BOXER, MR. FEINGOLD, MRS. HUTCHISON, MR. ASHCROFT, DR. FRIST, MR. GRAMS, MR. DEWINE, MR. KYL, AND MR. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____.

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people of Mexico on the occasion of the democratic elections in that country.

Whereas the United States and Mexico share a border of over 2,000 miles;

Whereas Mexico is the second largest trade partner of the United States, with two-way trade of \$174,000,000,000;

Whereas United States companies have invested over \$25,000,000,000 in Mexico from 1994-99;

Whereas over 20,000,000 million people now in the United States are of Mexican descent, a fact that in and of itself forges profound and permanent cultural ties between our two countries;

Whereas the well-being and security of the United States and Mexico require governments willing and able to cooperate fully to confront common threats, including organized crime, corruption and trafficking in illicit narcotics;

Whereas the people of Mexico have struggled for decades for a true representative democracy, accountability, and the rule of law and, in recent years, they have sought and obtained significant political and electoral reforms in pursuit of those objectives;

Whereas the Federal Electoral Institute and its regional councils, now genuinely independent and representative bodies, were responsible for organizing the federal elections on July 2, 2000, in which nearly 1,000,000 citizens participated directly in conducting the balloting for a new president, a new national congress, and state or local officials in Mexico City as well as 10 states;

Whereas the July 2nd elections were observed by approximately 2,500,000 domestic monitors and 850 foreign visitors, including delegations of the United States-based International Republican Institute for International Affairs and the National Democratic Institute;

Whereas in the July 2nd elections, Vicente Fox Quesada of the Alliance for Change (consisting of the National Action Party and the Mexican Green Party) was elected President of the United Mexican States, receiving 42.5 percent of the 37,600,000 votes cast, according to preliminary results released by the Federal Electoral Institute; and

Whereas, according to the Federal Electoral Institute and domestic and international observers, the July 2nd elections were unprecedented in their degree of fairness and transparency, forming the foundation for a genuinely democratic and pluralistic government that represents the will and sovereignty of the people of Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS HELD IN MEXICO

(a) Congratulating the people of Mexico.-- The Senate, on behalf of the people of the United States, hereby

1. congratulates the people of Mexico for their long, courageous, and fruitful struggle for representative democracy and the rule of law;
2. congratulates Vicente Fox Quesada for his electoral triumph and extends to him genuine best wishes for great success in his formation of a new government, and
3. congratulates Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, current President of the United Mexican States, for his historic commitment to ensure the peaceful and stable transition of power.

(b) Sense of the Senate.-- It is the sense of the Senate that the United States should seek to--

- (1) expand and intensify its cooperation with the newly elected government of Mexico to promote economic development and to reduce poverty to achieve an improved quality of

life for citizens of both countries

(2) confront common threats such as the trafficking in illicit narcotics; and

(3) act in solidarity to actively promote representative democracy and the rule of law throughout the world.

Sec. 2. Transmittal of Resolution.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit copies of this resolution to--

(1) Vicente Fox Quesada, President-elect of the United Mexican States;

(2) Luis Felipe Bravo Mena, president of the National Action Party of Mexico;

(3) the International Republican Institute for International Affairs and the National Democratic Institute; and,

(4) the Secretary of State with the request that the Secretary further transmit such copy to Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, President of the United Mexican States.